

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Latin America*

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ARGENTINA

Castro Madero Notes Slow Pace of Talks With FRG	B 1
Soviet Union Became Leading Meat Buyer in January	B 1
Soviet Delegation Arrives for Fishing Research	B 2
Nicaraguan Refugees Arrive From Managua	B 2
Asylum Under Study	B 2
Five Arrested for Distributing Communist Literature	B 2

BOLIVIA

Agreement on Consular Relations Signed With USSR	C 1
Disagreement Between Government Organs Continues	C 1
General Reports Campaign Against Armed Forces	C 1

BRAZIL

Santos Dock Strike Worsens; Troops To Be Sent	D 1
BRASPETRO To Explore for Oil in Angola, PRC	D 1
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 15 Mar]	
Congress Examining Brazil-FRG Nuclear Accord	D 1
[O GLOBO 16 Mar]	
Aeronautics Minister Praises Ties With U.S. Air Force	D 2
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 14 Mar]	
French Air Force May Buy 40 Xingu Aircraft	D 2
Three Military Delegations To Visit This Week	D 2
[JORNAL DO BRASIL 17 Mar]	
Bank Official Views U.S. Foreign Loan Restrictions	D 3
Briefs: Base on Trinidad; Political Prisoner Released	D 3

CHILE

Brazilian Paper Sees Possible Ouster of Matthei	E 1
[O GLOBO 14 Mar]	
Catholic Church Concerned Over Abuses of Power	E 1
Foreign Ministry Studying Peru's Expulsion of Chileans	E 2
Finance Minister Predicts Growth During 1980's	E 2

COLOMBIA

Reportage on Latest Embassy Developments	F 1
Commander Uno Reduces Demands	F 1
Government Issues Statement	F 1
M-19 Releases Two Communiques	F 4
Doctor Reports on Hostages	F 5
Uruguayan Ambassador Departing	F 6

PARAGUAY

Interior Ministry Discounts Guerrilla Activity	H 1
Further Details on Incident	H 1

PANAMA

Further Reportage on Shah's Medical Condition	N 1
Station Reviews Situation	N 1
Contradictory Reports Circulate	N 2
Government Noncommittal on Shah's Legal Status	N 2
Ozores Discusses San Jose Foreign Ministers Meeting	N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

Foreign Ministers Issue 'San Jose Declaration'	P 1
--	-----

EL SALVADOR

Armed Forces Report on Latest Violence	P 2
Toll of Violence Increases to 58 Dead, 100 Wounded	P 4
Army Removes Cordon Around National University	P 5
Junta Members Discuss Violence at News Conference	P 5
Further on News Conference	P 7
BPR Accuses Junta of Using Chemicals Against Peasants [Havana International]	P 9

GUATEMALA

Government Minister Views Fight Against Subversion	P 9
Government Spokesman Discusses Suppression of Violence	P 10
FUR Calls for End to Violence, Release of Member	P 10

HONDURAS

Government Decision to Boycott Olympics Scored [TIEMPO 6 Mar]	P 10
--	------

NICARAGUA

Coverage of Delegation's Visit to USSR Continues	P 11
Media Notes Soviet Coverage	P 11
Soviet Coverage Continues [cross-reference]	P 11
Activities in Moscow Reported	P 11
Ortega Returns From Tour of Caribbean Countries	P 12
Robelo Announces MDN's Establishment as Political Party	P 12
BARRICADA Warns Against Rise of 'Democratism'	P 14
Robelo Denies Division Between MDN, Government	P 15

CUBA

Six More Cubans Seek Asylum in Venezuelan Embassy	Q 1
Official Talks With Angolan Delegation Open	Q 1
Foreign Minister Visits Counterpart	Q 1
Education Minister Welcomed	Q 1
Health Cooperation Agreement Signed With Soviets	Q 2

Petrovskiy Hails Agreement	Q	2
Decree-Law Regulates Conduct of Educational Personnel	Q	2
Dorticos Appeals for Criticism in Justice Ministry	Q	3

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA

\$1 Million Relief Grant From EEC Forthcoming [ADVOCATE-NEWS 12 Mar]	S	1
---	---	---

MARTINIQUE

France Suspects Cuban Role in Local Unrest	S	1
--	---	---

ST KITTS-NEWS

Government Views Cuban-Soviet Connection as Threat [TRINIDAD GUARDIAN 14 Mar]	S	2
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CASTRO MADERO NOTES SLOW PACE OF TALKS WITH FRG

PY.32356 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1654 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (NA)--Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), indicated today that negotiations with the FRG Government for the transfer of a nuclear reactor to Argentina are not developing "with the speed we would have wanted."

"This is a process we must go through, and we are expecting an answer from the FRG Government," Castro Madero said today when he welcomed the members of a Brazilian nuclear mission at Ezeiza Airport.

Argentina is negotiating with the FRG Government for authorization to purchase a nuclear reactor to be installed in the Atucha II nuclear plant. The negotiations are stalemated due to the current enforcement of the safeguard clause required by Bonn officials.

Castro Madero reiterated that in nuclear matters "our sovereignty is absolute and guaranteed."

He said: "We already have extensive experience in what it means to depend on other countries for sources of energy, and this is why Argentina has implemented a policy of becoming as self-sufficient as possible in order to guarantee the exercise of its sovereign rights."

Asked if the signing of a nuclear cooperation agreement between Argentina and Brazil would bring peace of mind to the great powers, since this would insure that Latin America is not going to start a nuclear arms race, Castro Madero said that "it would bring them peace of mind if this is not merely a pretext used to bar the transfer of technology."

He said: "If they (the developed countries) really believe that there is a dangerous arms race between Argentina and Brazil in nuclear development, this cooperation agreement should give them complete tranquillity."

He added: "Now, if this is a pretext to justify its transfer of technology, I believe that they will continue to persist in discussing the danger of supplying these elements for the nuclear development of countries like Brazil and Argentina." [sentence as received]

He said that "energy is a necessary element for the development of countries" and that this is the reason why the Argentine Government has implemented a plan to achieve self-sufficiency. He confirmed that during the conversations to be held with the Brazilian officials who arrived today, "We are going to establish the groundwork and work very hard," and "we expect to reach an agreement so that Presidents Jorge Videla and Joao Baptista Figueiredo can sign it during Figueiredo's visit to Argentina on 14 May."

He emphasized, however, that "the visit of the Brazilian officials is by no means going to be limited to the agreement, other matters will be discussed as well."

SOVIET UNION BECAME LEADING MEAT BUYER IN JANUARY

PY182118 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Mar 80 p 10 PY

[Text] The Soviet Union was the main importer of Argentine meat in January, surpassing the EEC, the more traditional buyer. According to a report by the National Meat Council [JNC], Argentine meat exports to the USSR totaled 7,954 tons, while those to the EEC totaled 7,613 tons.

According to the JNC report, total meat exports during January 1980 amounted to 32,640 tons, 2,000 tons less than was exported in January 1979. The report reveals that the Soviet Union did not purchase any Argentine meat during January 1979.

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR FISHING RESEARCH

PY190139 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2221 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (LATIN)--A delegation of USSR fishing experts arrived in Argentina today to study the possibility of making a joint evaluation of the living resources in the southern zone of the Argentine sea.

The delegation, headed by Vyacheslav Lipanov, is made up of officials of the Soviet fishing ministry and scientists and technicians and will hold meetings with Argentine experts.

According to a report released by the government, the joint research with the Soviet Union will complement similar studies carried out in the last few years in cooperation with the FRG and Japan, the results of which are now being evaluated by the Argentine Government.

The report indicates that the government's priority objective is to get the best possible information for the optimal and most rational exploitation of these resources, preserving the "essentially conservationist" position maintained by Argentina as the basic principle of its fishing policy.

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM MANAGUA

PY182103 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1618 GMT 17 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar (LATIN)--A group of 23 Nicaraguan refugees, including 14 high-ranking military officers, are in a suburban refugee center today after arriving from Managua, where they had sought asylum at the Argentine Embassy after the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza.

The group of refugees includes 15 men, 3 children and 5 women.

Asylum Under Study

PY182108 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] The Interior Ministry is analyzing requests for political asylum from 23 Nicaraguan citizens. The Nicaraguans, who had sought refuge in the Argentine Embassy in Managua, arrived at Ezeiza airport Sunday.

FIVE ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING COMMUNIST LITERATURE

PY182128 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 17 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Santa Fe, 17 Mar (NA)--It was officially reported today that five activists who were distributing communist literature in Sunchales, in the northeast of this province, were arrested in a police operation.

The arrested have been identified as Victor Eduardo Ponte, 34; Ricardo Oscar San Esteban, 48; Rafael Roberto Villareal, 34; Aldo Miguel Ceresole, 33; and Sebastian Delfino, 34. They all live in Sunchales. The police confiscated a Dodge automobile with license plate No F-372485, Marxist literature and communist party membership cards.

AGREEMENT ON CONSULAR RELATIONS SIGNED WITH USSR

PY181822 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] An agreement establishing relations at the consular level has been signed at the Bolivian Foreign Ministry between the Soviet Union and Bolivia. Present at the ceremony were Soviet Ambassador to Bolivia Boris Kazantsev, Bolivian Ambassador to Moscow Carlos Serrate Reich and Bolivian Foreign Minister Julio Garret. The agreement includes five chapters and 43 articles, with an additional protocol.

Chapter one gives a complete definition of the words consulate, consular district, consular chief, consular official, consular employee, consular sites, consular articles, maritime ships and airships and their nationalities. Chapter two describes the consular establishments and the designation of the consular officials and employees.

DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ORGANS CONTINUES

PY151306 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0026 GMT 15 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 14 Mar (LATIN)--Unknown individuals have kidnaped a group of security agents of President Gueiler's government and tortured them in military barracks, according to an official charge released here tonight. The Interior Ministry released a communique in which it made the charge, thus adding another disturbing element in the feud between the government's security and military intelligence organizations.

GENERAL REPORTS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMED FORCES

PY151823 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1621 GMT 14 Mar 80 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Mar (LATIN)--The commander in chief of the Bolivian armed forces, Gen Armando Reyes Villa, has denounced the existence of a "violent campaign" against this institution in an effort to expose it as an "enemy of the people." General Reyes Villa made this statement during a speech at the conclusion of a meeting of commanders of large and small units last Wednesday, but the text of the speech was only released today. The press was not allowed to attend the meeting.

General Reyes said that a violent campaign against the armed forces is periodically being carried out in an effort to expose them to the public as an enemy. He stated that "well-studied plans in the fulfillment of dangerous beliefs hidden behind a false support for democracy are being carried out."

He added that "this hate, held for so long and which is now bursting out, naturally has had a great impact on the armed forces, particularly the officers. It is a justified reaction when the high command is asked to take strong action to put an end to this provocative situation. It is nothing more than a demand for respect for the uniform we are proud to wear."

He called on his comrades in arms "not to let themselves be influenced by defiant positions" against the armed forces because "a hasty decision, a thoughtless action can create serious consequences for all of us."

SANTOS DOCK STRIKE WORSENS; TROOPS TO BE SENT

PY181622 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[(Rene Braga) report from Santos]

[Excerpt] The Santos longshoremen's strike that began yesterday is already regarded as the most important one in the history of Brazilian ports and also the most effective one in terms of observance, since nearly 35,000 workers--belonging to 24 professional groups--have joined the strike.

The first consequences of the strike are beginning to be felt as railway companies suspend cargo shipments to Santos. Two hundred trucks loaded with shipments are parked and 42 ships are docked in the port area. Losses during the first day of the strike are estimated at 15 million cruzeiros and, if the strike continues, there will be widespread congestion in the port area.

Navy Capt (Antonio Cesar Eduardo de Andrade) has said that troops will be sent from Rio de Janeiro to Santos. Meanwhile, the workers will meet tonight at 2000 at the (Antonio Guenaga) gymnasium to decide whether or not to return to work or not.

BRASPETRO TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN ANGOLA, PRC

PY182051 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Mar 80 p 16 PY

[Excerpt] Joel Mendes Renno, who was sworn in yesterday as vice president of BRASPETRO [Petrobras Branch for Overseas Operations] stated that next week this subsidiary of PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] will sign a contract to search for petroleum in Angola. According to Mendes Renno, a delegation of the Angolan state company is in Brazil working out the final details with BRASPETRO.

The new BRASPETRO vice president also said that the enterprise will aim its efforts toward searching for oil on the east and west coasts of Africa, especially in Angola, and in the PRC and Indonesia. Currently, BRASPETRO is working on seismic surveys in three areas in China's Yellow Sea covering an area of 50,000 square km, in association with ELF and British Petroleum; in the Perola River basin jointly with Shell, Mobil, Chevron, Phillips and Texaco; and in the west, on Hainan Island, with the PRC state enterprise.

Joel Renno believes that it is very possible that together with other enterprises, Brazil will discover oil in the PRC. This possibility is indicated by the seismic studies which are being carried out. The new vice president of BRASPETRO says that in addition to the PRC, the enterprise is interested in Indonesia, not only to seek petroleum but also to enable PETROBRAS to negotiate oil purchases from that exporter. Indonesia is the only OPEC member which does not yet supply Brazil.

CONGRESS EXAMINING BRAZIL-PRG NUCLEAR ACCORD

PY182330 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Mar 80 p 36 PY

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--Expenditures for the import of nuclear technology up to June 1979 amounted to \$101.4 million, of which the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEBRAS] group contributed \$50.6 million; FURNAS \$39.5 million; and private national enterprises \$11.2 million.

Carlos Geraldo Langoni, president of the Central Bank, sent this data to the Congressional Investigating Committee (CPI), which is examining the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement. In an official note sent to CPI President Itamar Franco, Langoni makes it clear that it was not possible to identify the national and foreign enterprises involved in the nuclear agreement that had obtained funds for contracting the transfer of technology together with the National Patent Institute (INPI), which did not supply the Central Bank with this information.

But one of the reports sent to the CPI by the Central Bank reveals that the construction firm of Norberto Odebrecht, responsible for the civil engineering work of the Angra I and II nuclear plants, spent \$7.9 million on the import of technology up to June 1979. The overall remittances in payment for technology made to the FRG up to June 1979, according to the Central Bank, amounted to \$737.8 million.

AERONAUTICS MINISTER PRAISES TIES WITH U.S. AIR FORCE

PY181812 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 80 p 6 PY

[Excerpt] Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos praised in Brasilia yesterday the "high level of relations" between the Brazilian and U.S. air forces and recalled that "although the Brazilian Air Force has acquired sophisticated U.S. technology, we have never endangered our inalienable ideological independence."

Delio Jardim de Mattos made this statement on the occasion of decorating, with the Aeronautics Medal of Merit, the U.S. Air Force chief of staff, Gen Lew Allen, Jr., who yesterday arrived in Brasilia to reactivate relations between the two air forces in the fields of training and logistics exchange.

In his short speech, Delio Jardim de Mattos stated that the U.S. Air Force's respect for "ideologies, and this cooperation which does not violate the boundaries of noninterference, strengthens our relationship and provides the trust necessary for lasting friendship."

FRENCH AIR FORCE MAY BUY 40 XINGU AIRCRAFT

PY181606 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] A French Defense Ministry delegation has initiated talks with the Brazilian Air Force staff for the purchase of Brazilian-made Xingu pressurized turboprop planes. These planes would be earmarked for the French Air Force, which intends to purchase 40 units since, after comparing it with similar aircraft, they found the Xingu to be of higher quality than several of its competitors.

THREE MILITARY DELEGATIONS TO VISIT THIS WEEK

PY181452 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Mar 80 p 15 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--A Venezuela Army delegation headed by Gen Vicente Luis Narvaez Chourion, inspector general of the Venezuelan Army, will arrive next Thursday in Brazil to visit the Brazilian War Materiel Depot [Parque Belico Brasileiro] and to learn about the administrative structure of the national army.

In fact, three foreign delegations interested in the Brazilian War Materiel Depot are expected to arrive this week, two of which are European delegations that are interested more in proposing cooperation than in the purchase of equipment produced for the Third World market.

In addition to the Venezuelan Army delegation made up of five officers, a representative of the French Defense Ministry is also expected to arrive this week. He is also interested in proposing Brazilian association in France's weapons markets.

Having several requests for sales, Brazil is now expecting the results of the latest military delegations to visit Brazil, beginning with the Chinese delegation. It has been learned that the Chinese are interested in the heavy equipment manufactured by ENGESA [Specialized Engineers Corporation] but above all that they asked a Brazilian Government company to manufacture a rifle with a special kind of bullet, not yet widely used in other countries. This rifle's bullet needs a special kind of powder manufactured only in Belgium. But anyhow, it has been guaranteed that the Brazilian company will manufacture that kind of rifle and ammunition for the Chinese.

An Italian aeronautics delegation headed by Franco Ferri, deputy chief to the Italian aeronautics chief of staff, and three other generals arrived in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. The Italian delegation will visit the Brazilian aeronautics industries to study the feasibility of cooperation between the two countries to manufacture the AMX, a new fighter plane.

BANK OFFICIAL VIEWS U.S. FOREIGN LOAN RESTRICTIONS

PY181440 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] The possible reduction of U.S. foreign loans pursuant to the recent measures adopted by the Carter administration will not have a major impact on Brazil because we are increasingly less vulnerable to this type of measure, Central Bank Foreign Director (Jose Carlos Madeira Serrano) said, commenting on remarks made by U.S. Treasury Secretary William Miller.

(Madeira) said that the greater liquidity of the European and Japanese markets has caused Brazil to turn more in that direction, thus becoming less dependent on the United States for obtaining foreign resources to finance its current accounts deficit. If the restrictions are implemented, (Madeira) said, he cannot see how limiting foreign loans can contribute to fighting U.S. domestic inflation.

It must be pointed out that Secretary Miller said in Washington that large U.S. banks will have to restrict foreign loans pursuant to the measures adopted by President Carter and the Central Bank [as heard presumably federal reserve].

BRIEFS

BASE ON TRINIDADE--Trinidad Island, 600 km off the coast of the state of Espirito Santo, is to be made into a strategic naval outpost in the South Atlantic. Plans are ready, and the project, which has an estimated cost of 1 billion cruzeiros, should be completed within 8 months. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Mar 80 p 19 PY]

POLITICAL PRISONER RELEASED--Joaquim Batista, the last political prisoner in Sao Paulo, was released by the judge advocate of the 8th Military District. In 1970, Batista hijacked a plane and took it to Cuba, where he spent 9 years in jail. Upon his release last year, he returned to Brazil but was arrested at Congonhas Airport. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY]

BRAZILIAN PAPER SEES POSSIBLE OUSTER OF MATTHEI

PY181644 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 80 p 18 PY

[Exclusive for O GLOBO by Florencia Varas]

[Excerpt] Santiago--"I believe that we must define a constitution and a transition period. If at some time it was better to say that there were no deadlines, this has changed and we must now speak of deadlines. We do not seek to hold power forever. The ideal thing would be to change leaders without changing the regime. The civilians must seek, propose and train leaders."

These remarks--made by Gen Fernando Matthei, commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force and member of the military junta since 1978, when he replaced Gen Gustavo Leigh, who was ousted by Pinochet for making similar statements--could lead to the beginning of a schism between the two military leaders. This has been told to this correspondent by air force sources who asked to remain anonymous. They added that the most probable outcome will be that Matthei will be forced to refute the statement published yesterday by the magazine ERCILLA.

A preamble to such a measure was seen yesterday in President Pinochet's remark that "the magazine ERCILLA does not seem to have understood what General Matthei wanted to say when he spoke of deadlines for the transition period. The person responsible for the interview wanted to lead the general in another direction."

The interview granted by the air force commander in chief is somewhat contradictory, because on the one hand General Matthei says that "anything related to the executive is up to the president" and adds that he does not like to "interfere with his work," while on the other hand he indicates that "it is important to establish an alternative because if it does not exist then the president cannot leave the government, since this would mean exposing the country to chaos and anarchy, and civilians must make efforts toward creating such an alternative."

Since General Leigh's ouster in July 1978, the air force has practically lost its leadership because another 21 generals were either expelled or resigned on their own. Matthei, whom Leigh had appointed health minister, was the only general willing to take the job offered by Pinochet.

From then on, the air force has been feeling the effects of a lack of leadership and of Pinochet's ever-growing power. Pinochet controls the country's politics, forcing the other members of the junta to play a symbolic or purely military role. "Pinochet does not accept either suggestions for opinions on political matters," the air force sources said. The sources believe that Matthei did not really want to say what he did during the interview, but he will have to pay for it, and Pinochet will begin looking around for someone to replace him.

The same sources indicated that General Matthei must play a very difficult role because, while being aware of the "discontent at his grassroots," he must please President Pinochet. That is why his statements are always somewhat confusing and contradictory.

CATHOLIC CHURCH CONCERNED OVER ABUSES OF POWER

PY190027 Paris AFP in Spanish 0242 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 17 Mar (AFP)--In a magazine published by the Santiago archbishopric, the Chilean Catholic Church today voiced its concern over what it termed "the abuses of power" by some members of the armed and police forces of the country.

"The church hopes that those who exercise authority over uniformed personnel carrying arms will make sure that their subordinates use their weapons responsibly and that they do not abuse their authority, even in actions carried out when not on duty," stated the note published in the biweekly SOLIDARIDAD.

The magazine mentions the complaints made on several occasions by families affected by incidents or situations involving transgressions of the law which resulted in the death of a civilian and in which a uniformed authority was involved.

SOLIDARIDAD reported that the church authorities believe that even when these victims have committed a crime nobody is authorized to impose justice independently [words indistinct] which took place between November 1979 and February 1980.

The following deaths are mentioned: 19-year-old Pedro Andurandegui, who died in an investigation prison cell (civil police); 19-year-old Julio Hernan Pena Mardones, who was shot dead by an army sergeant on the street; 22-year-old Raul Luis Ruz Carrasco, also shot dead on the street by another army officer; Jorge Alejandro Cabedo Aguilera, who died in an investigation station; Vicente Rojas Gomez, shot by a passenger of a Carabineros vehicle; and 22-year-old Marcos Javier Tapia Guzman, shot dead by an army corporal in a restaurant.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STUDYING PERU'S EXPULSION OF CHILEANS

FY180153 Santiago Chile Domestic Service 0000 GMT 18 Mar 80 FY

[Excerpt] The Foreign Relations Ministry is gathering information about the expulsion of two Chilean citizens from Peru.

Foreign Ministry spokesman have reported that the ministry is gathering information regarding the Peruvian government's decision to expel Chilean citizens (Roberto Victor McDonnell) and (name indistinct).

According to an official report by the Peruvian authorities, the aforementioned Chilean citizens were expelled from Peru on charges of illegal residence and because their presence was a threat to that country's security.

FINANCE MINISTER PREDICTS GROWTH DURING 1980'S

FY190134 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 80 FY

[Text] Chilean Finance Minister Sergio de Castro predicted an 8-10-percent increase in the Chilean economy and an investment of \$8-9.5 billion per year for the 1980's. This forecast was made during a meeting with a delegation of 43 Brazilian industrialists who arrived in Chile this weekend.

The mission of this delegation, headed by the Mario Garnero, chairman of the forum of the Americas, is to meet with representatives of the Chilean private and public sectors. De Castro stated that Chile is determined to strengthen its economy, since its steady growth will help to finally eradicate extreme poverty. He also said that the current government should be judged by the fulfillment of this goal and that so far it has been successful.

REPORTAGE ON LATEST EMBASSY DEVELOPMENTS

Commander Uno Reduces Demands

PA199236 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota--Commander Uno, chief of the group that attacked the Dominican Embassy in Bogota last February and is holding many hostages including 18 diplomats, today announced having reduced their demand for the release of 311 political prisoners to only 20, but warned that they will leave the country with them or leave for the cemetery.

Thus, Commander Uno resumed his position [words indistinct] with the government negotiators, in a report published today by the magazine CROMOS, which Commander Uno called to make his statement. He said the government has spoken of the Colombian constitutional rights and has given us a lesson on the constitutional rights, and we not only [words indistinct].

Government Issues Official Statement

PA190258 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Statement by Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas on the position of the national government regarding the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota; place not given--live]

[Text] Good evening. To avoid inaccuracies, I have prepared a text that I will now read.

Compatriots, ever since the first day of the attack on the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic has been supplying information, through succinct bulletins, regarding the course of the talks between the government delegates, Drs Camilo Jimenez and Ramiro Zambrano, and the representative of the subversive group, with one of the hostages, Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, in attendance.

Obviously the bulletins could not give details of a dialog which, because of its special nature, has been carried out on our side with absolute discretion. It is probably advantageous at this time to inform the national and international public more precisely of the position taken by the Colombian Government in this dramatic case, as opposed to the stance taken by the assailants of the Dominican Embassy.

At all times, our conduct has taken into account the interests of the international community and those of our country. We have never been unaware that the world is observing in suspense the development of this sad and complex case.

The government has realized that the violent occupation of the embassy is a reflection of the new types of war being waged in different regions by terrorist groups against the legal regimes. War does not always consist of armed confrontation. Instead, it very often is manifested in the multiple and dangerous forms developed by international terrorism. This year, in which the country has been beset with misfortune, Colombia has happened to be the site of the most serious attack ever launched against a diplomatic mission. On no other occasion have so great a number of ambassadors been taken hostage.

The assailants, ever since the first moment of their punishable violation of the law, have demanded a ransom of \$50 million and the release of several hundred common criminals, whom they describe as political prisoners.

Among the alleged political prisoners whose release is being requested are those charged with the assassinations of Dr Nicolas Escobar and labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado. Also included is a woman who participated in the killing of General Rincon Quinones. They also include on this list many prisoners, some already sentenced and others charged with horrible crimes.

Through the humanitarian dialog which has been held with the assailants of the embassy, their representative has confirmed the participation, or rather claimed for the 19 April Movement [M-19], the killing of labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado, and has described as heroic the suicidal attitude of the killers of the manager of (Texas), Dr Nicolas Escobar, explaining that these crimes were committed for political reasons rather than for terrorist purposes.

She has given a similar explanation for all the crimes carried out by members of the M-19 and other subversive organizations. Thus the guerrillas are demanding the release of the direct killer of former Minister Pardo Buelvas and of many others involved in a wide range of crimes.

The M-19 group has indicated that its interest lies, not in withholding condemnation of the corrupt, but rather in the release of its comrades, regardless of their degree of culpability. The representative of the terrorist group added that she does not believe in the Colombian juridical order, which is bourgeois in nature, and states that this is why they have taken up arms instead of seeking the services of lawyers.

I would like the public to be informed that the assailants of the Dominican Embassy are not demanding the release of a group of misguided and harmless idealists, but rather that of common criminals who, in the course of their criminal activities, have never stopped at any moral barrier. They have been characterized by cruelty and cynicism.

The government has maintained that the president of the republic and his ministers must act within the severe framework of the Constitution and the law, respecting the independence of the organs of public power. The executive cannot decree, on its own and by its own power, the release of persons arrested in conformity with legal formalities. Prisoners in Colombia are not jailed by order of the government, but rather by order of the competent judges. This clear premise is of no account to the terrorists, because their reiterated aspiration is not that of finding legal, but rather de facto, solutions to the attack on the diplomatic mission.

Representatives of the government in the humanitarian dialog have insistently maintained that in defense of human rights, the executive will proceed without any consideration to see that the violators feel the weight of the law. The president of the republic plans to invite the international Red Cross and the Human Rights Commission of the OAS to come to examine the serious and honest manner in which investigations into abuse of authority are proceeding. As soon as the government receives the report of Amnesty International, it will promote, if required, the respective investigations. The government will not support any act which goes against the physical integrity and the dignity of mankind.

The representative of the subversive group has been told that the government offers humanitarian, juridical and decorous solutions within its firm determination to bring about the release of innocent hostages who have not participated directly or indirectly in the events by which the assailants attempt to explain the occupation of the embassy. On the other hand, with the valuable cooperation of eminent jurists, it issued a legislative decree designed to expedite verbal courts-martial which are already underway. At the end of these trials, there would probably be, as there usually are, prisoners who would not be sentenced because the law is more exigent regarding proof for conviction than regarding proof for arraignment.

It has been explained to the assailants that there are special resources, such as that of appeal and that of review by the Supreme Court of Justice and that in this manner, the civilian courts have the last word over military courts. Our entire juridical system is based on the incontrovertible principle of the independence of the organs of public power. Therefore, the executive cannot invade the realm of justice, whether administered by regular or military judges.

The subversive group has not hesitated to say that it does not recognize Colombia's Constitution or its laws. As it was stated earlier, their position is not that of those who expect the government to act within a legal framework but expressly opposes juridical solutions. The representative of the embassy assailants has said several times that they do not want to prove the innocence of their imprisoned comrades but obtain their release regardless of the seriousness of the crimes committed. To show that [words indistinct] their wish, they have presented a list of 28 names which they say are not negotiable, the large majority of whom have been accused of murder, kidnaping, extortion, armed assaults, theft of weapons used exclusively by the armed forces and of collusion. Those on the list of nonnegotiable prisoners [who should be released] include prison inmates who have been tried and sentenced by common courts.

The position of the government throughout the long dialog with the representative of the subversive group has been invariably that, within order and with the higher interest of securing the release of the hostages and insuring respect for their lives, it is willing to do everything that is not contrary to our laws. Colombia regards its juridical beliefs, its democratic tradition and its full identification with a de jure status as its most valuable patrimony. No government that respects the past and does not want to irresponsibly compromise the present and future generations cannot compromise that patrimony. We will do everything that the spirit of freedom requires of us with decorum and within a legal framework. [Words indistinct] transient personal (?positions) but the patrimony of a nation of 26 million inhabitants. This attitude is not marked in the least by vanity but we are proceeding out of the profound conviction that we must do our duty.

During the last conversation with the M-19 representative, antagonistic positions were observed concerning the extension of a dialog which he accepted but did not propose. According to her, the next meeting will be held when the government announces that it is willing to negotiate the release of a certain number of prison inmates. The government in turn has stated that it will resume the talks as a token of its solidarity with [words indistinct] no one can expect us to act foolishly.

Finally, in order to [word indistinct] once and for all the ill-willed reports on imaginary attacks by the national armed forces on the embassy taken over the M-19 subversives, the government wants to reiterate its well-known position that, as long as the invaders do not endanger the physical integrity or the lives of the hostages, no attempt will be made to take over the Dominican Embassy by force. The government will not jeopardize the lives of innocent hostages.

In this emergency we have felt the heartfelt support of Colombians, all political sectors and the most varied social and economic strata. The nation has reacted as it had to, calmly and with determination to preserve innocent lives and prevent the deterioration of its institutions. The people [words indistinct] certain that the government, aware of all the dangers involved, will not go too far in its decisions or yield under the pressure of the threats. With the stimulating support of public opinion and with the assistance of divine providence to whom we implore, we have faith in the possibility of finding a [word indistinct] solution. Good evening.

M-19 Releases Two Communiques

PA181814 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0412 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Panama City, 17 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The 19 April Movement (M-19) today released two communiques here datelined in Colombia in connection with the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota.

In one of the communiques, datelined 16 March, the M-19 names the political action carried out against the Dominican Embassy in Bogota as operation "freedom and democracy."

The text of the document notes that the operation does not seek to attack the governments represented there, "which include some that are respectful of democratic freedoms and human rights, such as Mexico and Venezuela." It adds that "it is not a matter of offending the church, represented by the papal nuncio, since most of the Colombian bishops and the clergy are with us in the struggle for justice and freedom--excluding of course Cardinal General Munoyduque, who is a genuine representative of the privileged castes and an accomplice to repression."

Further, the document states that "although the ambassadors of the United States and Israel, who are accomplices to the repression, tortures and exploitation of our people, are there, our action is not aimed at them either."

The M-19 says that "it is not our greatest source of satisfaction to carry out this type of operation, in which we have had to harm several diplomatic officials and violate certain international laws we have always defended. But our country's critical situation and the degree of repression that has been reached have not left us any alternative as a means of obtaining the release of hundreds of unjustly jailed political prisoners, most of whom show the physical and mental evidence of torture and are constantly threatened by their repressive captors, guardians and judges."

The guerrilla group states that it rejects "the false legalist posture adopted by the government, the champion of constitutional violations."

According to the M-19 communique, in Colombia "thousands are tried by military judges, when the Constitution clearly establishes that 'military officers can only be court-martialed when their crime has been committed while carrying out their duties.'"

The document also refers to the use of "tortures of all kinds, a practice confirmed by national and international organizations," in addition to the "numerous assassinations of peasants, workers and popular leaders."

Other points mentioned in the M-19 document signed by top leader Carlos Toledo Plata include the "refusal to provisionally release pregnant women after the 6th month, the eviction of peasants and Indians from their land, the support given to the monopolies that are causing the bankruptcy of small industrialists, the people's increasing misery and the disregard for union rights."

The M-19 then asks "democratic governments to prevent the violent actions planned with the aid of the United States and Israel." It adds that "we ask the democratic leaders of political parties to support the wishes of certain government sectors so this episode is favorably resolved by guaranteeing the freedom of political prisoners and the safety of the hostages."

The M-19 asks "honest and democratic military officers within the Colombian armed forces to oppose Camacho Leyva's and his clique's efforts exclusively aimed at consolidating his power through violence and repression."

Finally, the communique says, "our commands have received very clear and specific orders and are ready to reject any action, even at the cost of their own lives. We do not want any 'legalist' arguments; this is a political and human problem," the M-19 says.

In its second and most recent communique, datelined Colombia, 15 March, the M-19 states that its movement "has learned through our country's honest and progressive military officers that, advised by special U.S. and Israeli troops, the Colombian armed forces are preparing an attack on the Dominican Embassy in Bogota." "Such an action," the communique adds, "will be carried out by constructing a tunnel which, beginning at some site close to the embassy, will continue underground and surface inside the embassy." "The government's delaying tactics in its negotiations with the M-19 are aimed at gaining time to build the tunnel," the document states.

It adds: "According to our sources, President Turbay is being strongly pressured by the Colombian armed forces and the Pentagon not to interfere with the initiatives of the special troops in charge of attacking and occupying the embassy." The guerrillas accuse General Camacho Leyva of being willing to "stage a coup" if that action is not carried out.

The Dominican Government nonetheless has denied the ops authorization to enter the embassy, which is still Dominican territory. "We hope it will maintain this decision as its contribution to a peaceful and just solution."

The M-19 "feels it is its duty to inform the world about this situation and to alert the governments whose diplomats are inside the embassy, pointing out that any action that endangers the lives of the Dominican Embassy occupiers will be the total responsibility of the armed forces and of the governments of the United States, Israel and Colombia.

"Our movement deplores having had to resort to this action, which is not a source of great pleasure, but the conditions of repression, injustice and violation of all rights that exist in Colombia did not leave us any other alternative to protect the lives and safety of hundreds of companeros who are unjustly imprisoned," the document explains.

Concluding, the M-19 states: "The members of the command in charge of the "freedom and democracy" operation have received clear and specific instructions. They will know how to follow them, just as thousands of our companeros, imprisoned, tortured and assassinated by the regime, have done before them.

Like the previous communique, this one is also signed by Carlos Toledo Plata and is a photocopy.

Doctor Reports on Hostages

PA181538 Paris AFP in Spanish 1344 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 18 Mar (AFP)--The Colombian Government today blamed the M-19 [19 April Movement] guerrillas, who have been holding 22 hostages in the Dominican Embassy here for 21 days, for the shooting that occurred on the morning Uruguayan Ambassador Fernando Gomez Fyys escaped.

The presidential palace explained that the government has given strict orders not to shoot anyone leaving the occupied embassy and stated that this instruction is being strictly complied with by the army and the police.

The official explanation was necessary in view of persistent versions about the origin of the shooting. At least three shots were fired on Monday morning when Uruguayan Ambassador Gomez Fyns managed to escape.

Preliminary reports indicated that a nervous soldier, who heard the shouts by Gomez Fyns, fired his rifle without effect. Later it was persistently reported that the shots were fired from inside the embassy.

This last report was reiterated by the government today when it announced that it has ordered military, police, and security units around the embassy not to shoot at anyone leaving the embassy.

The situation in the embassy, which has been occupied for 21 days, has remained static. The calm was shattered this morning when five rifle shots were heard some 300 meters from the embassy, although the origin of the shooting was not established.

Meanwhile, it was learned today that cardiologist Enrique Urdaneta Holquin, after checking and treating Venezuelan Ambassador Virgilio Lovera this morning, also examined U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio, Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Angelo Acerbi and Brazilian Ambassador Geraldo Evladio do Nascimento de Silva.

The doctor said that the four are in good health, although he admitted that Lovera had suffered changes in his blood pressure in view of the tension prevailing in the embassy and the anxiety caused by the escape of Gomez Fyns.

Uruguayan Ambassador Departing

PA182018 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Uruguayan Ambassador Fernando Gomez, who yesterday was involved in a spectacular escape from the Dominican Republic Embassy, held by an M-19 guerrilla group, will be leaving for Montevideo this afternoon.

The diplomat has been at the central military hospital, where he received constant medical attention and was treated for the injuries he sustained when he jumped out of a second-story window of the Dominican Embassy.

Gomez will be leaving at 1500 for Montevideo, where he will join his family. He talked to Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas this morning.

INTERIOR MINISTRY DISCOUNTS GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

PY181720 Paris AFP in Spanish 0204 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Asuncion, 17 Mar (AFP)--The Interior Ministry today denied the existence of guerrilla activity in Paraguay by noting that a criminal assault was perpetrated last week by a group of bandits who engaged in a clash with police forces and that as a result of this clash there were 10 dead and seven wounded. It added that two persons are being sought.

Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro said that the operation "is considered finished since only two bandits are still at large." He said he was surprised at some press reports that were trying "to give political connotations to a police case." Among the fugitives is Victor Centurion, who according to Paraguayan political circles is the leader of the armed group and was also previously active in the Peasant Agrarian League [Liga Agraria Campesina]. The interior minister said that "the criminals had planned to perpetrate and assault against the Development and Aid Bank in Caaguazu (located 250 km from Asuncion), but since they were unable to do so they took over a passenger bus and robbed the tourists." Montanaro added that "the police organized an immediate search operation, a clash ensued, and as a result 10 bandits were killed and another seven were wounded." According to a report issued by the interior ministry, five members of the security forces were also wounded. Montanaro said that Centurion "is a character who has an extensive police record, and he has been indicted for armed assault."

Further Details on Incident

PY181730 Paris AFP in Spanish 0110 GMT 18 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 17 Mar (AFP)--According to reliable sources, the guerrilla uprising in Paraguay disclosed last weekend by the Brazilian newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO is reportedly made up of no more than a dozen peasants, who are surrounded by the Paraguayan armed forces in the eastern region of the country.

They are the survivors of an operation perpetrated on 8 March by about 30 rebel farmers who decided to hijack a bus in Caaguazu, halfway between the Brazilian border and Asuncion (capital of Paraguay) to go to the presidential palace to denounce their pitiful living conditions. The majority of these peasants work for large Brazilian-owned agricultural establishments that are becoming ever more numerous on the Paraguayan side of the border. The leader of the group, Vito Centurion, member of the clandestine Peasant Agrarian League [Liga Agraria Campesina] reportedly told the passengers of the hijacked bus: "We are going to Asuncion to talk to the president."

The operation failed for reasons that are yet unknown, but well-informed sources reported that 16 members of the commando group were killed by the Paraguayan armed forces and buried in a common grave. About 8 men (and not 5,000, as was reported by certain Brazilian newspapers) started a dragnet operation to hunt down the rest of the members of the group, among them Centurion. Soldiers and officers from the Villarica garrison, in the 2d Military Region, are in charge of the search operation. They are being aided by helicopters and Colorado Party militia.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry, through an authorized spokesman, has reported that it is not concerned about recent reports on the presence of guerrillas in Paraguay only 200 km from the Brazilian border. Asked about press reports on the proximity of these incidents to the gigantic Itaipu Dam, the same source noted that the official reports received from Paraguay in this regard state that it is a small number of "common criminals." The same source added that the forthcoming trip by Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo that is scheduled for 11 April will not be postponed.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SHAH'S MEDICAL CONDITION

Station Reviews Situation

PA181322 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Mar 80 PA

[Report by Mario Velasquez]

[Text] Panama again made news headlines this weekend as a result of the existing expectation regarding the health of the former shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and the possibility of operating on him at Paitilla hospital. After spending 48 hours in the hospital, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi finally returned yesterday afternoon to his refuge on Contadora Island without having his spleen removed. We found out that in the past 48 hours and long before, a series of events related to the fate of the former Iranian monarch had been going on not only in Panama but in New York. Today we are in a position to report that David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger were involved at all times. Early last week, Kissinger and Rockefeller made a telephone call, presumably from Rockefeller's office at the Chase Manhattan in New York, to Paitilla Hospital directors to tell them about Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's wish to be operated by Dr Michael DeBakey and his assistants from Houston. At the time of this call, Rockefeller and Kissinger were in the company of Dr Benjamin King and the former shah's assistants, Mark Morse and Robert Armao. From that moment the authorities at Paitilla clinic were very specific and definite in stating that Dr DeBakey could only act as an observer and consultant. Afterwards, the Health Ministry Technical Commission on 13 March issued a resolution signed by Health Minister Dr Jorge Medrano which supported the authorities at Paitilla Hospital. The resolution was consistent with Panamanian laws regarding the practice of medicine in our country. The former shah of Iran was admitted to Paitilla Hospital on Friday apparently under the impression given to him by his assistants, that Dr DeBakey could perform the operation despite the position assumed not only by Paitilla Hospital officials but by the Panamanian Government through the Health Ministry Technical Commission.

Dr Michael DeBakey, an eminent cardiologist of 71 years of age, arrived on Saturday accompanied by 10 assistants, among them general surgeons, anesthetists, nurses and other medical aides. He also brought with him some equipment and surgical instruments. Long and heated disputes took place between Dr Michael DeBakey and Paitilla Hospital officials because Dr DeBakey insisted on performing the operation, disregarding Panamanian laws and health authorities. At some points, these meetings reached very tense moments and a Panamanian doctor told U.S. doctors that this was not Afghanistan and that we had good medical facilities and competent professionals in this field. Dr DeBakey did not accept the position of the Paitilla Hospital administration and refused to act as observer and consultant despite the fact the Panamanians made some concessions such as allowing him to use the person who was going to handle the surgical instruments. At this point, Rockefeller and Kissinger once again appeared exerting pressures from New York on the U.S. Embassy here. As a matter of fact the U.S. Embassy at its highest level was informed of the situation by Paitilla Hospital authorities and agreed that the Panamanian position was beyond question. Kissinger and Rockefeller's pressures were also exerted on high Panamanian authorities, who under no circumstances gave in to those pressures and remained prudently out of the problem. Kissinger and Rockefeller insisted on having Dr DeBakey perform the operation. Once the pressures exerted on the Panamanian Government failed, it was known that pressures were exerted on the Paitilla Hospital in trying to learn about the financial situation of the institution to see if pressure could be exerted in that aspect to destabilize the upright and firm position of Panamanian doctors.

In view of the state of uncertainty regarding his medical treatment, the former Iranian monarch decided to leave the Paitilla Hospital Sunday afternoon after spending 48 hours in that hospital during which, oddly enough, he did not allow an examination, not even a blood test.

Afterwards, a communique was issued announcing that the operation had been postponed in order to wait for his general health to improve. The truth is that Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's case, according to trustworthy medical sources, is not urgent. His case in medical terms is known as elective surgery.

Contradictory Reports Circulate

PA181948 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1804 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The shah's health is a mystery; not for a lack of information but for excessive contradictory reports.

Medical, political, and even patriotic interests have intermingled to create a maze of rumors and clues which point in all directions without leading to anything certain.

Robert Armao, secretary and chief spokesman of the deposed Iranian monarch, has said that his boss is really sick and needs to undergo surgery within a few weeks. According to U.S. specialists he must have his spleen removed to prevent the acute anemia from he is suffering.

But Panamanian doctors, consulted by local newsmen, state that the shah has pneumonia. Some very suspicious local observers note that perhaps he did not even have pneumonia. In their opinion--of course unconfirmed by any official source--the shah is only preparing his "escape" in case an arrest warrant against him prospers.

GOVERNMENT NONCOMMITTAL ON SHAH'S LEGAL STATUS

PA190340 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The government maintains in secrecy the definition of the legal status of former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It will reveal it only when it has formally answered the request to that effect submitted by lawyer Juan Materno Vasquez, legal representative of the Iranian Government in the request for the extradition of the former Iranian ruler.

The government position was confirmed today by Government Minister Ricardo Rodriguez in an exclusive statement to this station in which he also said the shah's health could only influence a political decision by the government, but not the legal proceedings underway.

[Begin recording] [Question] Telvisora Nacional wishes to ask you what legal documentation you have received from the representatives of the Iranian Government concerning the request for the extradition of the former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi?

[Answer] Regarding the legal status of former Iranian ruler in Panama, we have thus far received at the ministry a formal verbal representation by lawyer Juan Materno Vasquez in my office. We have also received a request from Juan Materno Vasquez asking for a definition of the legal status of the shah in our country; that is, a written definition from the ministry of the former ruler's status in Panama. The request was received here last week, on Thursday or Friday, and we are now issuing instructions to the competent officials of the ministry to prepare these documents.

[Question] Will the health of the former shah have any influence on the government position concerning the extradition request?

[Answer] From a legal viewpoint, the situation of the shah will be settled in conformity with his legal status in the country, according to international law. There is no doubt that the condition of his health may have a humanitarian effect and affect a decision from a strictly political viewpoint, but it will not affect a legal decision.

[Question] What criteria govern presidential and government ministry actions, since both are part of the Panamanian state, on these requests from the Iranian Government?

[Answer] Immigration matters are exclusively the jurisdiction of the Government Ministry; therefore, that topic will be handled by the ministry exclusively. The president, as our superior, may be consulted or asked to give his opinion, but the final decision will be made by the ministry. [end recording]

OZORES DISCUSSES SAN JOSE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

PA160346 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Mar 80 PA

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores at the Yellow House in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the Central American foreign ministers meeting. Interviewer not identified, date not specified--recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Question] Mr Foreign Minister, how do you see this foreign ministers meeting and what does Panama hope to obtain from it?

[Answer] In the opinion of my delegation this is a very important meeting for several reasons.

1. This is the first time that Panama has participated in a meeting at this level and this is an important fact for our future relations with the other Central American countries.

2. The fact that this meeting takes place at this time makes this meeting very opportune for Central America. In spite of the fact that we are discussing economic matters we are also analyzing political problems. Naturally, we are fully aware that there are decisions at the highest level which must be left to our chiefs of state, but nevertheless the reports and concerns that each of us on our return to our respective countries will present to our chiefs of state will be of great value.

3. This meeting is important because this morning it was agreed to hold similar meetings. It was unanimously agreed to hold the next one in Managua from 20 to 21 June. The Nicaraguan delegation offered to host the meeting and the offer was accepted by all. We shall use the same method in this meeting; that is to say that a technical level meeting will be held 3 weeks before the ministers meeting in Managua to draft the working documents in order to facilitate the work. We also agreed, although this will be confirmed in Managua, that we will hold another meeting in September. The date has not been set yet, but the idea is to hold it shortly before the UN meeting so we can discuss not only matters of common interest to Central or Latin America, but also current problems and international policy in general terms. We are fully aware that the problems of any geographic area affect our countries in one way or another.

[Question] It has been insistently said in Central America that this foreign ministers meeting is the basis for calling a Central American summit meeting which would include Panama. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] I am fully convinced that we will get to this. It is a little premature to give dates for such a meeting, but the cordial atmosphere prevailing at this meeting will lead to a summit meeting of the greatest importance because it will be the first time that all the Central American presidents will be able to talk face to face, speak frankly and solve problems which still exist in the area.

[Question] In view of the important post you hold in your country's foreign relations, how do you see the political situation which exists in Central America? Do you believe that violence could set the Central American isthmus on fire at any moment?

[Answer] Well, I am an optimist by nature. I am aware of the serious situation existing in several countries and between various sectors, but at the same time I am fully convinced that just as their governments are waging a sincere policy of social reforms without traumas and at the lowest social cost possible, I am also convinced that extremist groups, both leftist and rightist, will understand, in the long run, that the best way to reach harmony between all the citizens of a country is to give a vote of confidence to the rulers as long as they show--as they do--that they are acting in good faith.

[Question] Regarding Panamanian political life, Foreign Minister Ozores, the feeling exists in Central America that since General Torrijos recovered the Panama Canal for Panama he has withdrawn from his country's politics. What can you tell us in this respect?

[Answer] In fact, General Torrijos announced his withdrawal and is keeping his word. The Panamanian Government is headed at this time by President Aristides Royo, and is made up exclusively of civilians. General Torrijos holds only the post of National Guard commander in chief, but we in the government all admit that he continues to be the inspiration, guide and conductor of a process which has not changed, even though Royo assumed the presidency on 11 October 1978. This means that there is a framework within which we work and this framework was designed by the regime which was led by General Torrijos. As for his direct participation at later dates in Panama's domestic political life, I believe that only General Torrijos can say what he will do in the future. But in fact he is, and we all admit it, the conductor of the Panamanian revolutionary process.

[Question] Does Panama, as an observer of Central American affairs, think that in order to solve the difficult problems of this region--which is becoming explosive today--the U.S. Government should follow a policy of arming the Central American governments, or that it should take steps to solve the social, economic and political problems in our countries?

[Answer] I am under the impression that the United States is at this time thinking about its domestic problems, reelection for the incumbent regime, and other things. For example, in the Carter administration there are very capable persons who are well aware of the Latin American and Central American situation. However, I believe we shall have to wait until after the November elections to learn what the real U.S. policy toward our countries will be.

On one hand we speak of the defense of human rights and on the other we talk of military aid to some countries, but within all this there is a great lack of coherence and uniformity. It is true that each country has its problems, and relations with the United States should not be seen in a global light; rather, each country should consider its bilateral relations.

Nevertheless, one can see a lack of consistency which should be corrected after the November elections, because unfortunately, at this time the United States is more concerned with electoral problems than with foreign policy. So we must wait in order to learn what the real U.S. policy toward our countries will be. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTERS ISSUE 'SAN JOSE DECLARATION'

PAL82035 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1304 GMT 16 Mar 80 PA

[By Eduardo Castro]

[Text] San Jose, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--In a meeting held here until late Saturday night, the foreign ministers of Central America and Panama decided to work so that the Caribbean region will be declared a zone of peace.

The decision was adopted at the initiative of the Nicaraguan revolutionary government. The Managua government's participation led to the inclusion of new ideas in the document whose signing was delayed for 4 hours due to the many changes it underwent as a result of the objections made by some ministers.

The meeting has attended by Foreign Ministers Rafael Castillo Valdez of Guatemala, Fidel Chavez Mena of El Salvador, Eliseo Perez Cadalso of Honduras, Miguel D'Escoto of Nicaragua, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier of Costa Rica and Carlos Ozores of Panama.

The ministers stated that "peaceful coexistence and harmony among the states of the Central American isthmus demands the respect of the different social, economic and political systems and the right to self-determination and to solve their domestic affairs in accordance with their own historical development."

The also stressed that nonintervention in the affairs of another state is vital "for maintaining the peace and security of the countries of the area." The ministers decided to reaffirm the sovereignty of states over their respective territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, continental shelf, jurisdictional waters, airspace and adjacent territories as well as marine and geological resources.

They emphasized the "advisability that the countries of the region provide each other with mutual support and solidarity in the just demands and claims dealing with that subject as well as territorial matters which they might present to third states."

The Central American foreign ministers also "rejected the use of discriminatory measures, aid with conditions that are harmful to national interests, direct or indirect aggressions and other actions which are contrary to sovereignty, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the principle of ideological pluralism."

They also agreed that "the Central American isthmus, the jurisdictional waters of each of the states, their continental shelves and their adjacent territories on both oceans are not a zone of influence of any power and they rejected any foreign threat or coercion."

The ministers condemned all forms and expressions of colonialism, neocolonialism and racial discrimination as well as the arms race and all expressions of foreign aggression, occupation and intervention. They also repudiated "all acts contrary to life and the physical integrity of people such as physical and psychological tortures, kidnappings and terrorism in all its forms as well as other methods which threaten the freedom of individuals."

In the economic sphere, the foreign ministers confirmed the states' right to carry out trade and other forms of international economic cooperation, independent of any differences in political, economic and social systems.

They also reiterated the prohibition contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States regarding the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to pressure other states.

They referred to the need to regulate and supervise the activities of the transnational companies which operate within the national jurisdiction. They also pointed out the need to adopt measures to guarantee that their activities are carried out under the laws, regulations and other legal provisions of each country and that their activities be in line with the state's economic and social policies.

The ministers stressed the belief that the economic integration process and cooperation among developing countries are essential requirements for their full economic, social and cultural development and that the benefits should favor all sectors of their populations.

In the San Jose Declaration--the name of the meeting's final document--the foreign ministers said they will actively participate in favor of the establishment of a new international economic order, particularly in defense of their natural resources, their prices for raw materials and other export products of the developing countries. The ministers also favor the adoption of measures to stop the protectionist measures of the developed countries.

The foreign ministers decided to warmly welcome Panama's participation in the meeting and said that from now on when the terms Central American isthmus or Central America are used they must be understood as meaning Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

They also institutionalized their meetings, indicating that the next one will be held on 20-22 June in Managua, Nicaragua. They also decided to institutionalize the meetings of the isthmus' representatives to international organizations and conferences in order to hold monthly consultations dealing with the subjects to be discussed in them. Each ministry will appoint a representative to international meetings. The Central American nations will also provide reciprocal support to the area's candidacies for international posts and sites of international meetings.

Regarding other integrationist processes, they decided to maintain and strengthen relations with the member countries of the Andean Pact and the European Common Market.

Other points the ministers agreed upon were: to instruct the economy ministers of the isthmus to speed up the study of the reorganization of the Central American Common Market and support the consolidation and strengthening of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) and the Multinational Banana Marketing Corporation (COMUNEBANA). The organization of Central American States (ODECA) will also be reactivated.

They also decided to create common fronts in energy affairs and in the struggle in favor of just and reasonable maritime freight charges. The ministers also decided to "express sympathy with the efforts undertaken by the Nicaraguan National Reconstruction Government regarding the economic reactivation plan and the renegotiation of the foreign debt."

EL SALVADOR

ARMED FORCES REPORT ON LATEST VIOLENCE

PA190428 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Press communique released by the Salvadoran Armed Forces--no date given]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces hereby informs the national and international public of some incidents that have occurred in the past few days in various parts of the nation.

The incidents in question during which human lives have regretfully been lost were motivated by subversive elements interested in obstructing the profound social welfare actions being promoted by the honorable Revolutionary Government Junta. The said extreme leftwing elements as they themselves have stated with insolence and arrogance in a leaflet attributed to the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses are opposed by all means to the agrarian reform process. They are threatening the peasants who are cooperating with the authorities and have voiced their glee over such a far-reaching step in their favor. Under these circumstances and for two reasons--to promote the measures beneficial to the needy majorities and to keep order in view of provocations of the subversive enemies of the people--the armed forces have been compelled to act and it must be noted that they have done so within the law and with the greatest prudence and tolerance that it has been able to muster.

Northeast of the capital and north of Dulce Nombre de Maria between the areas known as Cerro el Pilon, Cerro los Candeleros and Quebrada los Manzanos, army patrols were attacked by subversive elements and eight subversives were killed.

At Valle Verde farm in Suchitoto on the road to Aguilar, subversive elements of unknown affiliation killed Gerardo Gutierrez and Ramon Alas, president and vice president, respectively, of the Provisional Peasant Board which within the agrarian reform process had been set up from among the Valle Verde residents.

In the heroic city of Santa Ana, members of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS] and FSR [not further identified] organized a small rally and when duty patrolmen showed up, both sides opened fire. A national police officer sustained some light injuries.

Actions to hinder the change process which the country is experiencing have been constantly repeated. One was the erecting of barricades to obstruct traffic. In other cases, vehicle tires have been punctured, buses have been stopped and the passengers have been ordered to get off to be frisked, asked for contributions and have their weapons stolen and so forth.

On other occasions, home-made bombs have been set off. During the past few hours one was set off at the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, one was detonated in the agricultural extension office in Aguachapan, another one in San Miguel also in an agricultural office and still another one in Sacatecoluca.

Along the road to Suchitoto, subversive elements attacked an armed forces vehicle. There was a clash at Kilometer 30 as they were being pursued and 12 subversives and a security officer were killed.

In Aguachapan FENASTRAS operatives who were disturbing the peace were evicted from the (Sacalca) factory. There were no major incidents. Three firearms were confiscated.

In Apastepeque, the third basic school was raided and a lot of subversive propaganda was found. No arrests or deaths were reported.

We deny false rumors circulated by persons interested in promoting unrest that in El Playon, Sacatecoluca, many public security corps members have been killed.

Regarding questions asked of the Armed Forces Press Committee on the facts concerning the incidents that occurred near the National University we report that: the armed forces began guarding it early today from a prudent distance away to prevent the entry and exit of subversive elements who are using the university as a haven. During the course of the day, the individuals inside the university have been harassing the public security forces. Shots have been fired by both sides. No deaths have been reported by the armed forces. It is unknown what may have happened on campus.

Incidents at the Cuscatlan burlap bag factory on Gerardo Barrios Street and the 25th Avenue must also be mentioned. There was a clash there between subversive elements and security agents. Four subversives including a woman were killed. Various weapons, explosive devices and much subversive propaganda were impounded from the assailants.

Regarding the incidents at Colima Ranch, as of this time we know that a group of about 60 unidentified individuals who supplanted a peasant organization came to the said ranch carrying placards and saying they were going to organize another executive board different from the one the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation had organized. They violently took control of the situation and set up armed lookout points along the road between the (Aselguate) and Colima bridges to obstruct traffic and protect themselves. It was then that the armed forces intervened to restore order. The subversives opened fire on them with various weapons. As a result about 18 were killed among the subversive occupiers of the ranch. Several of them were arrested and G-3 and other caliber rifles were confiscated.

In view of these regrettable incidents and out of the perennially vigilant, dynamic attitude of the armed forces, it is worth calling on the people to continue to place their confidence in the government of the republic and rest assured that the enraged and frenzied forces of subversion shall not stop the glorious process of change which, mainly to the benefit of the peasantry, is being undertaken by the Revolutionary Government Junta.

TOLL OF VIOLENCE INCREASES TO 58 DEAD, 100 WOUNDED

PA181740 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[By Mauro Espinoza Fernandez]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--At least 58 persons were killed and more than 100 wounded Monday in El Salvador in the most violent incidents that have shaken this Central American country since Gen Carlos Humberto Romero was overthrown last 15 October.

More than 45 of the deaths occurred in the interior in incidents apparently unrelated to the call for a general strike made by the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses.

The Coordinating Board groups four Marxist-Leninist organizations which are opposed to the current Revolutionary Government Junta and its structural reforms.

The 58 persons killed, which were officially reported, included five security corps members. It has been speculated that the number of victims could be more than 60 if there were any casualties in the National University premises as a result of the exchange of fire between armed elements inside the university campus and security agents who since Monday had been surrounding the university grounds.

The military cordon has been withdrawn. An army spokesman said that the "preventive military cordon" around the university had yielded the expected results, because it had prevented the "free flow of terrorists who use the university as a hideout."

The greatest number of deaths yesterday occurred at one of the ranches expropriated by the junta. Eight more deaths occurred in the vicinity of Dulce Nombre de Maria, 70 km north of San Salvador, when guerrillas attacked a military patrol. The military suffered no casualties.

In the vicinity of Suchitoto, 44 km northeast of the capital, 12 guerrillas and a policeman were killed in a clash.

There were two deaths reported in a ranch near Suchitoto. Army spokesmen said that the two were the president and vice president of the provisional administration of the ranch which also had been expropriated. Four National Guardsmen were killed in San Julian, 56 km southwest of San Salvador, when the local police post was attacked by terrorists.

ARMY REMOVES CORDON AROUND NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

PA190209 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The Salvadoran Army today removed the armored vehicles and sharpshooters posted around the National University yesterday when outbreaks of violence were registered on the premises leaving a toll of at least 47 dead.

The military-civilian junta and leaders of the Christian Democratic Party, meanwhile, have announced separate news conferences.

This morning, heavily-armed police patrolled the streets of San Salvador as the capital returned to normalcy with most stores open for business and the urban transportation operating regularly.

The latest victims of the political violence of yesterday and this morning affecting that Central American nation were four men, found shot to death in three different sectors of the capital.

The Defense Ministry said armored vehicles and sharpshooters had been posted around the National University and who had clashed with snipers for nearly 12 hours, were removed at dawn today.

The Salvadoran Human Rights Committee claims to have information about an unspecified number of dead and wounded inside the university grounds, located to the north of San Salvador. Foreign correspondents who toured the area, however, said they had not found any signs of victims.

JUNTA MEMBERS DISCUSS VIOLENCE AT NEWS CONFERENCE

PA182243 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt of news conference held by junta members Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, Adolfo Arnaldo Majano Ramos and Jose Ramon Avalos Navarrete at Presidential Palace--live]

[Text] [Question by Carlos Samayoa Martinez, Jr, of Radio Cadena YSU] Good morning. Apart from the topics discussed by Colonel Majano, I have a question. Yesterday Amnesty International issued a pronouncement condemning the present Salvadoran Government, describing it as a repressive government. I would like to know what the members of the junta think first of Amnesty International and secondly, about its declaration condemning the government.

[Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich] We have great respect for Amnesty International. We consider it to be a responsible institution. But I would also like to explain that in the specific case of El Salvador, many responsible institutions are not properly informed at this time and at times, misleading information about our country disseminated abroad lead to actions of the type you mentioned this morning.

Regarding the essence of your question, I categorically deny that this government is a repressive one. I wish to take this opportunity to say that the present Salvadoran Government is not trying at this time to wage a war against anyone--we are not anti-communist, we are anti nothing--but want to bring about an authentic democracy in El Salvador, with the understanding that the tragedy of democracies is that they have never really been implemented.

What we are trying to bring about is a real process in which an authentic democracy is established in the political area, in other words, a democracy of popular participation in which the people are truly the ones who determine their own destiny and decide what should be done.

Furthermore, in order for there to be an authentic democracy--and when we speak of participation by the people, they must participate in both giving and receiving and in this country the people have never received anything--we have to initiate a process of profound change in the socioeconomic structure that has generated violence. We have a structure which is absolutely unjust in the areas of land ownership and in finance, and that is why this government has tried to break down this structure and it has in fact done so. Foreign trade in coffee has already been nationalized. And it is this trade in coffee that has contributed most toward having the foreign exchange produced by the sale of coffee remain outside the country. It permitted private exporters to purchase coffee from the producers when the price was lowest and then sell it abroad when the price was highest. The objective was to make the greatest profit for themselves, even if this left the country without foreign exchange, because they were speculating with coffee, waiting for good prices.

In the area of land ownership, we are changing the country's agrarian structure. A few moments ago, Colonel Majano told you that 117 [presumably estates] already have been expropriated and I hope that this number is increasing at this time. What does this mean? That we are hurting 117 families, but at the same time, we are acting for the benefit of 30,000. In other words, the agrarian structure in this country is absolutely unjust and is being changed.

The same thing had occurred in banking, where the entire national financial holdings were controlled by a few families for their own benefit, for the benefit of closed circles, which gave them excessive power. At this time, that entire scheme of oligarchic power which existed in this country has been destroyed.

Well then, within that scheme of things, we are accused of repression. I wish to say that I totally reject that description, although I also wish to be honest. We are not going to deny that in a time of transition, there are always excesses. We are faced with two alternatives. One can either be absolutely puritan, avoiding every single excess, every act of bloodshed, or one can struggle, alongside the people, to go from this stage of trauma, to change to the total eradication of repression, beginning a positive phase of participation and incorporation of the citizens into this process.

I believe Colonel Majano made it very clear that the peasant is being incorporated into the agrarian reform process and that we are undergoing experiences for which we are not responsible, but which are provoked by other forces to prevent the changes.

Yesterday, there were deaths. They did occur. It is regrettable that there should have been deaths in this country. But these deaths were not the result of repression. I think that must be made clear and in this regard, I defend this government. Yesterday approximately 50 persons were killed in this country. But this was not the result of government repression and if reports abroad give the impression that this government has taken to the streets to repress the people, then those reports are somewhat distorted.

Yesterday, there were confrontations with guerrillas. It all came from a national strike called by the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses--you know that this board coordinates the efforts of all the leftist revolutionary forces--a strike which the people did not support. Instead the people began to work and those organizations were forced to resort to acts of force and violence to give this strike some significance, something that was not achieved in the manner in which they expected. We understand from this that the people are supporting a process that is none the less revolutionary for being peaceful.

Pardon me for speaking at such length, but I wished to make it clear that the process that we desire is one of profound changes, with the establishment of the democratic system without repression. We will fight to eradicate repression. We cannot ignore the fact that there are excesses and that we must use all our power to stop those excesses.

[Majano] The reason for rejecting the term repressive as a description of this government is that the government's policy is clearly defined in this regard.

All our armed forces, the government forces which participate in political, social, economic and general affairs tend to favor the people, particularly the poor. In the case of the armed forces, it is not government policy to permit abuses of authority. That is prohibited. Whenever we are aware of abuses of authority, we immediately apply disciplinary measures or bring those involved to trial in the respective courts.

During recent months, policemen have been dismissed when proven guilty of abuse of authority. In addition, the general headquarters of the armed forces approximately 3 days ago imposed disciplinary measures against military elements participating in the agrarian reform process who were guilty of some abuses in carrying out their duties. To be more specific, we have ordered the arrest of two officials pending an investigation into abuses of authority during actions they took at properties which are being confiscated under the agrarian reform program.

[Avalos Navarrete] We would like to make clear the difference between repression and confrontations. Let there be no doubt: armed persons or groups which begin to launch attacks or participate in acts of violence such as the occupation of public offices should know that they are going to encounter force. Until recently these groups had met with peaceful persons, persons who were unarmed.

However, as Colonel Majano and Dr Morales Ehrlich have already said, the government is not willing to have the honest citizens who want to work continue to be subjected to that climate of unrest. Therefore, those persons must realize that from now on, they are going to encounter armed personnel of the armed forces and they must be prepared to die or to triumph, according to their viewpoint.

But those deaths mentioned did not occur from repression. They died during confrontations with the armed forces. Those deaths did not occur as the product of repression but of confrontations that occur in any kind of war.

Further on News Conference

PA190051 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1844 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Report by Carlos Samayoa Martinez]

[Text] Listeners, this is mobile unit No 10 covering the news conference currently being held at the Presidential House. One of the newsmen asked three questions of the government junta. The first question had to do with whether agrarian reform is really a means to control the peasantry. The question was answered by Dr Avalos Navarrete. Statements made by Hector Dada Hirezi and Dr Ruben Zamora abroad concerning their reasons for leaving the Christian Democratic Party and their interest in setting up a Social Christian Party were also mentioned. This question will be answered by Dr Morales Ehrlich. The third question was addressed to Colonel Majano on the university problems and whether the government would be willing to meet university officials to discuss university problems, notably the recent cordoning off of the campus.

Here are the replies:

[Begin Avalos Navarrete recording] Concerning the first question on the statement that agrarian reform will not benefit the peasantry but control them, I want to deny that outright. It would seem that there is some confusion concerning the armed forces' work with a group of Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation and Agriculture Ministry experts. Confusion has arisen because it is believed that the armed forces will stay there and control the peasants who become incorporated into [as heard] the armed forces. That is totally untrue. The only current, very important role of the armed forces is to insure that the takeover of land be done peaceably, without violence, vandalism or looting. Once the peasant association that will work the expropriated land is set up, they will be in control of their future. The only state control will consist in providing technical assistance and credit to purchase agricultural materials to work the soil. That will be the only control over the peasants or the peasant associations or cooperatives. From now on they will be in control of their own destiny. [end recording]

[Samayoa Martinez] The first to reply was Dr Avalos Navarrete on the role of the state and its participation in agrarian reform. Now Dr Morales Ehrlich will give another reply:

[Begin Morales Ehrlich recording] It is a shame that people like Ruben or Hector decided to do what they did because they are valuable individuals. Their decision is really due to a vote taken in the party during which the large majority decided to follow a line different from theirs. The vote was 138 to 4. If they are going to set up a Social Christian movement, I hope we will work together again someday in the construction of this country, because I think history will prove that the movement we are in now is correct.

Ours is a movement which is having its effect on the road that this country will follow and sometimes the position of simply leaving so as not to become involved in anything, and not have any responsibility for anything is not the best position. But sometimes it is the most comfortable. Therefore, I tell you we are undertaking a process in which we want the people to choose their own destiny and when I say that I may be reflecting a little bit of what Dr Avalos said.

Agrarian reform will be achieved with all Salvadoran peasants because we do not care if they are from the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation, Farm Workers' Union, any other organization or just independent. They will be integrated, get involved and be given land. What is going on? Salvadoran peasants who are very politically oriented, in the good sense of the word, and know exactly what they want and where they are going are taking a decidedly active part in organizing their cooperatives and in exploiting their land.

What we cannot insure anybody is that a cooperative executive board will be assigned to a specific group. Everyone will be integrated and the majority will choose the boards to run their cooperatives. This is to say that land reform will serve the peasants. It will be for the peasants, but never a means of controlling them, because we do not require their previous membership in a specific party or approval of a specific line. We respect the democratic handling of the farms occupied by the peasants. They are in charge. They decide and they are the ones who are supporting this process. [end recording]

[Samayoa Martinez] That was Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich's reply. The third question will be answered by Col Adolfo Arnaldo Majano:

[Begin Majano recording] The issue of the University of El Salvador is sensitive and very important to all of us because we all love our schools, particularly the university. I do not have the detailed information you reported a while ago on damage and the other incidents that occurred yesterday.

I can only tell you that checkpoints were set up in various parts of the capital. Several were located near the university as a precautionary measure because there have been armed elements inside it. We tried to block the exit or entry of armed elements who might unduly use our university for their armed operations which would intensify violence or cause unrest. In this sense we agree with the university rector or the university authorities who, I suppose, are opposed to the presence of such elements because they threaten or jeopardize the safety of university personnel. We hope the authorities will come here because they would give us the valuable opportunity of talking to them to avoid this type of problem.

You will recall that the existence of armed organizations or political parties or any other organizations is banned and on this occasion we tried to avoid this type of problem. [sentence as heard] Shots were fired from campus at the troops stationed outside and I must admit that the troops at the checkpoints fired back. This was the basic cause of yesterday's unrest.

Gentlemen, I would like to emphasize that the checkpoints set up yesterday were a precautionary measure to avoid the activities of armed groups on campus. [end recording]

[Samayoa Martinez] Listeners, those were the replies of the three junta members to various questions asked during the news conference held this afternoon at the Presidential House. This was a direct report from the presidency of the republic.

BPR ACCUSES JUNTA OF USING CHEMICALS AGAINST PEASANTS

PA190219 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] The Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] of El Salvador has reported that the military-Christian Democratic regime is using chemical compounds and napalm against peasants in the northern part of that country, where 150 persons have been killed in the 7 days that the state of siege has been in effect.

Carlos Lara, BPR representative in Mexico, said the number of dead might be even higher, because the censorship imposed by the regime on the media prevents the public from knowing about all the crimes committed by the repressive forces of the Christian Democratic junta.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT MINISTER VIEWS FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION

PA190055 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Mar 80 PA

[Text] According to Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, efforts are being made to control subversion. Alvarez Ruiz said today the security forces are trying to combat the subversion which currently is affecting the country. He said it is difficult to prevent the action of these extremist groups because they follow specific patterns which are unknown to the authorities. In a similar manner, however, these groups do not know about the actions of the security forces to protect the Guatemalan people.

Regarding a meeting of Central American government ministers, Alvarez Ruiz said a tentative date is the last week of March. However, the agenda of this meeting has not been drafted yet since there are many subjects which could be discussed to outline common policies.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES SUPPRESSION OF VIOLENCE

PA190056 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Regarding the constant discovery of bodies in various parts of the country, presidency spokesman Maj Ronaldo Archila Marroqui has said violence in general is a phenomenon that cannot be eradicated overnight. He said, however, the government is using the means it has within its grasp through the security forces to protect the citizens.

FUR CALLS FOR END TO VIOLENCE, RELEASE OF MEMBER

PA152146 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The youth of the United Revolutionary Front [FUR] invite the Guatemalan people and the popular organizations, particularly those who are in the democratic front against repression, to demand an end to repression as well as respect for the physical integrity of Companero Cesar Romero and his safe return to his family.

Guatemalans, if you are tired of so many violent deaths and so many missing people, it is your duty to actively participate in everything that helps to put an end to this situation. Demand the appearance--alive--of Companero Cesar Romero!

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT DECISION TO BOYCOTT OLYMPICS SCORED

PA162210 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Mar 80 p 7 PA

[By Julio Salas Posas]

[Text] Honduran athletes will not go to the Moscow Olympics. They were left with their bags ready (according to the popular saying) and with the wish to visit the great Russian capital. A stroke of the pen by those who rule the country sufficed to cancel Honduras' participation in the great international competition. This decision also ignored the Honduran Olympic Committee which had already decided that our athletes would participate in the Olympics beginning next July.

The unwise, but not unexpected, decision by this government did not come as a surprise because we all know the yeast with which it was kneaded. Nothing good can be expected of regimes created by force and without popular support or patriotic inspiration. The reality existing in this country cannot be more eloquent. Honduras has no prestige in international circles and among the countries of the world we are still a small and very backward country.

However, the blame for this falls on incompetent and irresponsible administrations for which patriotic values have no meaning as long as those administrations can satisfy their group and personal interests.

Once again it becomes evident, at government level, that there is a lack of patriotism and unconditional submission to the dictates of Yankee imperialism, which is boycotting the Moscow Olympic games, thereby confusing politics with sports.

May you fare well, oh lords of Olympus!

NICARAGUA

COVERAGE OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO USSR CONTINUES

Media Notes Soviet Coverage

PA172157 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Mar 80 PA

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Moscow--The newspaper PRAVDA says today that the Nicaraguan Government's foreign policy favors the development of friendly relations with all countries of the world. The leading Soviet newspaper headlined on its front page the arrival in Moscow this afternoon of a high-level delegation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the Nicaraguan Government.

The delegation is composed of Commanders of the Revolution Humberto Ortega, Tomas Borge and Henry Ruiz as well as Moises Hassan Morales, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. Included among the experts and Nicaraguan Government technicians who compose the delegation are Foreign Trade Minister Paul Atha Ramirez [as heard], Attorney General Ernesto Castillo and Carlos (Bernheim), director of the Nicaraguan Fishing Institute with the rank of minister.

(?In today's issue), PRAVDA says it is certain the visit by the delegation and the talks with the Soviet leaders will help strengthen the friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet and Nicaraguan people.

The avenues and streets through which the Nicaraguan delegation will travel from the airport to the city were decorated with Soviet and Nicaraguan flags today.

The Soviet Union and Nicaragua decided to normalize their diplomatic relations on 18 October 1979, 3 months after the victory of the Sandinist revolution over Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship.

Soviet Coverage Continues

For Soviet coverage of the visit by a delegation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction to the USSR, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 18 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Activities in Moscow Reported

FL181331 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Four Nicaraguan Government leaders on their first visit to the Soviet Union since the revolution (?kicked out) dictator Anastasio Somoza began talks in Moscow today with senior Communist Party officials. The group led by Moises Hassan, a member of the ruling junta, is in Moscow seeking aid. So far, the Nicaraguans have met members of the Soviet Politburo who are also members of the policymaking Central Committee. Meanwhile, a similar delegation from the Latin American country is now in Vienna, Austria, discussing the possible [words indistinct] Austrian technology for production of paper and [words indistinct].

ORTEGA RETURNS FROM TOUR OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

PA190050 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Comdr Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and of the Sandinist National Liberation Front National Directorate, today returned from a tour to Caribbean countries which included Grenada and Cuba.

Ortega mentioned the brotherhood and solidarity he found in the countries he visited. In Cuba, he talked to Fidel and Raul Castro and also with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who assured him of Angola's solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution.

ROBELO ANNOUNCES MDN'S ESTABLISHMENT AS POLITICAL PARTY

PA171436 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2334 GMT 16 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Alfonso Robelo Callejas, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said here today he believes ideological manipulation of the national literacy campaign to which the Nicaraguan revolution has committed all its resources would be "immoral."

The young politician spoke to an assembly of Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) members, of which he is the top leader, held at the Polideportivo Espana gym. The meeting was held to proclaim the conversion of the movement into an active political party.

Robelo said the MDN supports the national literacy crusade as a revolutionary task because it represents liberation for some 800,000 Nicaraguans who can neither read nor write. "But hear this," he said, "we are not referring to a literacy campaign that is manipulated for ideological or political party purposes. To take advantage of the ignorance of the neglected in this distorted manner is immoral."

Robelo proclaimed himself to be a Catholic and a revolutionary and said he is prepared to "defend the sacred principle of freedom of religion in Nicaragua." He noted that Pope John Paul II had expressed his desire that the Nicaraguan literacy campaign be carried out with full respect for the rights and religious convictions of the Nicaraguan people.

In his speech, Robelo called for respect for and defense of the sacred freedoms of all Nicaraguans. "We believe in ideological pluralism and in effective democracy based on compliance with the will of the majority with due respect for the will of the minorities, who have their place in this revolution. We also believe in the free exchange of ideas," Robelo said. He added that "only this free exchange can give mankind the opportunity to recognize his errors and correct them. He who believes he cannot make a mistake, that he should not listen to criticism, that he should not listen to what the people wish to say has no place in our revolution."

Robelo noted his contribution to all areas of the struggle against Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship. He said the MDN was a "determining" factor in the search for unity in which progressive businessmen, workers, peasants and the church participated.

"This, therefore, is not an upstart movement. Our brothers had to take up arms when all peaceful paths were closed to us, until we overthrew the tyrant, who had been drunk with power," Robelo said.

Robelo said the MDN helped to draft the "plan of the Government of National Reconstruction," the framework for the first phase of the revolution that he and his followers resolutely support.

"I agreed to be a member of the government junta in order to establish the basis for all Nicaraguans, without regard for political, religious or social distinctions, to effect the reconstruction of our nation. My acceptance carries with it the sacred commitment before God and the fatherland to contribute all my efforts to achieve a democratic Nicaragua in which justice, freedom and peace prevail," he said.

Robelo emphasized later that "we are a revolutionary and truly Nicaraguan political party. We have earned the right to be one by our participation, first in the insurrection and later in the revolution, and because the Nicaraguan people recognize our party's upright stance throughout its 2 years of struggle. This recognition is more than enough."

Robelo said there is no room in the MDN for reactionaries.

"We are not the redoubt of oppressors. We do not protect the interests of privileged classes. We fight for an equalitarian fatherland and we recognize that the classes must work to achieve their goals, but we combat hatred among those classes, because this would lead to a class struggle that would not only bring us more destruction and death," he said.

Robelo then said: "The important thing is not where the man is coming from, but where he is heading. He opposed jeopardizing "our sovereignty for any political or economic reason" and reiterated his party's pluralistic position, which calls for Nicaraguans to have the right to enjoy a free, prosperous, democratic and sovereign fatherland. "It is precisely for this reason that we call ourselves the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement," he said.

The political leader demanded respect for individual rights and said he favors labor, professional and political freedom, "without the imposition of any ideology." He said: "We respect all creeds and political opinions and for this reason, we demand respect for ours."

In what could be his party's government platform, Robelo called for a mixed economy in this country and for the boundaries of private property and state ownership to be defined.

He said state ownership should encompass public services, banks, the financial system, insurance and savings, which he said is fundamental in order to obtain resources and channel them toward the benefit of the majority. He said the channels of foreign trade, public transportation--in order to guarantee just and equitable service--ports and natural resources "given by God", should also be included in the state sector.

However, Robelo then said that "properly acquired private property should be respected, as long it fulfills the social function that is applicable to all property." He added that "it is time to uproot selfish sentiments from our hearts, because in the past everything was considered solely for the cold objective of personal benefit."

The MDN leader called for the inviolability of personal property such as housing, the family vehicle and furniture.

Robelo, who was continuously interrupted by heavy applause from the audience, repeated that the sole owner of the Nicaraguan revolution is "all the people." Let them not tell us now that the Nicaraguan people have no right to freely choose their leaders."

He also said that "since freedom is the most sacred goal for which heroes and martyrs died, it would be a betrayal of them to sacrifice the people's freedom." Robelo said the Nicaraguan revolution must have its own model, "a Sandinist model, because Sandino is the essence of nationalism in our fatherland and we should not copy processes that reflect other historical circumstances."

The MDN leader said: "We are not in opposition. We are in a true revolution." He called on Nicaraguans to wage the battle for the reconstruction of the new Nicaragua.

"If someone wishes to leave, let him have the freedom to do so, but it is here that true Nicaraguans must fight for the future that we dream of," he said.

What is considered to be the MDN's political "ideals," containing an entire program of government, including religious and electoral positions, was read during the meeting.

In the electoral area, Robelo reiterated his call for a strengthening of a pluralist and democratic system leading to truly free elections in which his party will participate and in which the people will freely choose those who will lead them in the future.

BARRICADA WARNS AGAINST RISE OF 'DEMOCRATISM'

PA161616 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 15 Mar 80 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Text] Managua, 15 Mar (AFP)--Hours before Alfonso Robelo, member of the government junta, initiated a political campaign in favor of his own party--the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN]--the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] today solemnly warned against what it called the rise of democratism.

According to local observers, the two attitudes apparently indicate an imminent ideological conflict among the members of the Sandinist government that could have decisive effects in the course of the Nicaraguan revolution.

The newspaper BARRICADA, the official FSLN organ, jumping ahead of a proclamation by Robelo to be announced 16 March, stated today in a front page article that ideological currents that want to reexamine Sandino are rising in Nicaragua.

The daily reiterated that the revolutionary Sandinism now in power in Nicaragua is classist and anti-imperialist. The FSLN also called on its militants to initiate a relentless ideological struggle now that there are some who are trying to confuse Sandino with bourgeois liberal ideology.

The FSLN also asked its militants to deepen their political studies to put democratism in its place. The manifesto states that bourgeois freedom has nothing to do with popular freedom, which reflects the objective interests of the people with regard to their right to organize and to arm themselves politically, militarily and ideologically.

The manifesto insists that the FSLN is the only vanguard of the revolution and reiterates the need for creating the single union of Nicaraguan workers. The FSLN adds that with the triumph of the revolution, the exploited classes are in power and things have changed. The article also defends the literacy campaign that will be initiated in a few days and that has been announced as the first firm step toward a new type of education in Nicaragua.

The FSLN also attacked a form of capitalism that gives alms to the workers in the form of benefits based on their earnings. This was in reference to social democratic models. The FSLN said this is an effort to eliminate the revolutionary power of the masses.

The FSLN manifesto concluded by stating that there is freedom in Nicaragua but the popular Sandinist revolution will never allow counterrevolutionary activities to be carried out under guise of freedom of cult, religion and religious values.

In a recent speech FSLN leader Commander Jaime Wheelock attacked the increase in party activities and stated that the FSLN is the only party with prestige remaining in the country. Wheelock said any effort to organize parties at this moment is an effort toward the return of Somoziism.

The planning minister, Commander Henry Ruiz, has also referred to some business sectors that form part of Alfonso Robelo's political party characterizing them as fossils that should be in a paleontology museum. He stated that their claims on the revolution are purely political and not economic.

The MDN headed by Robelo was created in 1972 by a business group that decided to get organized to support the popular insurrection that overthrew the Somozist dictatorship. In planning to come forth as a party, the MDN has been opened to all the social classes and remains within the patriotic alliance composed of the FSLN and five other political groups.

Today the MDN proclaimed the need for an effective democracy in which citizens may decide the political, economic and social future of the nation. The proclamation, with a social democratic line--according to what it stated--also defends state control over the means that are decisive and essential for the functioning of the nation's economic system. The MDN also spoke in favor of free labor organizations and called for the organization of all the popular associations that may help produce a general improvement of the working class in the country.

In one of its most polemical points, the MDN maintains that the armed forces, now under direct FSLN control, must be placed at the service of the fatherland and not at the service of a given ideology or party in order to guarantee its continuity regardless of the political group in government.

ROBELO DENIES DIVISION BETWEEN MDN, GOVERNMENT

PA181434 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan Reconstruction Government Junta member Alfonso Robelo arrived in San Jose last night. He said there is press freedom in Nicaragua. He said the only condition placed on newsmen is that they be members of a newsmen's organization.

Yesterday Robelo referred to his party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN], indicating that [word indistinct] meeting was a success since the crowd overflowed the location where the meeting was held on Sunday. Robelo said his movement is a socialist movement within the framework of freedom although he added that he does not like to place a political label on political parties. Robelo emphatically said there is no division between his party and the Nicaraguan Sandinist government. Although we do not agree on everything, we respect each other and work together, Robelo said on his arrival last night.

The MDN does not represent any social class. It represents the people. It is for the people and of the people, Robelo said. He added that there will be municipal elections in Nicaragua in 1981 and there might be elections to elect the national leaders in 1983 or 1984. Robelo said there is no reason why he could not be a presidential candidate when the national elections are held. Robelo said he is sure that the MDN party will be big. We are not confronting the Sandinist Front. If the Sandinist Front launches itself as a party we would be challenging it in peace and harmony as Nicaragua wants, he added.

SIX MORE CUBANS SEEK ASYLUM IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA182310 Paris AFP in Spanish 2258 GMT 18 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Havana, 18 Mar (AFP)--A source close to the embassy reported here today that six Cubans riding in a truck managed to get inside the Venezuelan Embassy. According to the source, none of the refugees was wounded by police outside the embassy.

Nine Cubans have already been granted asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy. They have been waiting for 3 months to get safe-conducts to leave for Caracas.

OFFICIAL TALKS WITH ANGOLAN DELEGATION OPEN

FL181021 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Excerpt] Following the decoration ceremony, the Cuban Government hosted an official reception in honor of the Angolan high-level delegation which is visiting us.

During the first day in Cuba, the Angolan president and the members of his delegation laid a floral wreath at the Jose Marti Monument at the Plaza de la Revolucion.

Later in the day, official talks opened with the Angolan side headed by President Dos Santos and the Cuban by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. During the meeting, which developed in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere in accordance with the relations of brotherhood existing between the two peoples, parties and governments, topics of bilateral interest as well as the present international situation were examined. Today the Angolan delegation will continue to observe its official itinerary in our country.

Foreign Minister Visits Counterpart

FL181744 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angolan foreign minister and member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, this morning paid a courtesy visit to the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Teixeira Jorge, who is part of the Angolan high-level delegation that is visiting Cuba, was received by Acting Foreign Minister Rene Anillo and Vice Foreign Ministers Jose Raul Viera and Jose Fernandez Cossio.

Oscar Oramas, director for Subsaharan Africa in the Cuban Foreign Ministry and Cuban Ambassador to Angola Rafael Francia Mestre attended the meeting which was held in a fraternal atmosphere.

Education Minister Welcomed

FL181937 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Jose R. Fernandez, member of the party Central Committee, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of education, has received Ambrosio Lukoki, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and minister of education of Angola. Lukoki is part of the delegation that is accompanying Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, on his visit to our country.

Asela de los Santos and Electra Fernandez, member and alternate member, respectively, of the party Central Committee and Juan Mier Febles, section chief in the education, cultural and science department of the party Central Committee, also received the Angolan minister.

Jose Ramon Fernandez introduced his Angolan counterpart to the members of the Education Ministry's general directorate and the participants in the assessment meeting being held there.

HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIETS

FL181756 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Dr Sergio del Valle, Cuban minister of public health and member of the party Politburo and academician Dr Boris Vasilyevich Petrovskiy, health minister of the Soviet Union, today signed a 2-year bilateral cooperation agreement in the field of public health.

Referring to the agreement, Dr del Valle said its signing is a worthy tribute to the 110th birthday of Vladimir Lenin and 20th anniversary of the beginning of relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Prof Petrovskiy donated to the Public Health Ministry an eye microsurgery set, cardiovascular dilation equipment, cardiac valves and numerous medical books.

Petrovskiy Hails Agreement

FL181807 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Interview by unidentified television reporter with Soviet Health Minister Petrovskiy, presumably at Cuban Public Health Ministry on 18 March--recorded]

[Text] [Question] We have with us academician Boris Petrovskiy, health minister of the Soviet Union, who has been good enough to say a few words for national television news. Professor, first of all we should like to know what importance you attach to the agreement recently signed by you and Dr Sergio del Valle?

[Answer, in Russian with consecutive Spanish translation] This is a historic agreement because for the first time the Government of the Soviet Union and the Government of Cuba have signed a bilateral agreement for contacts in the public health sector of the two countries. This agreement has taken into account exchange quotas which are much higher than those contained in previous agreements. Cooperation between scientific research institutes and between medical sciences institutes of the two countries have been included in this agreement. The fact that our work essentially is that of a great army of medical workers in the struggle for medicine and struggle for freedom of our people has been particularly taken into account. I am convinced that in the future we will have even more successes in the development of medical sciences and public health, and all the points of the agreement we signed today will be of great help on this.

DECREE-LAW REGULATES CONDUCT OF EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

FL141719 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1505 GMT 14 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The Council of State has approved Decree-law 34 of 12 March 1980 which regulates the status of personnel who perform their work in contact with or in the presence of students and engage in conduct which by its moral nature has an important effect on the development of children and youths.

Article 1 of the Decree-law specifies the representatives of the administration who are empowered to order the termination in his job or status of a worker who commits any such acts or conduct. Decree-law 34 applies to technicians, professors, teachers, administrative or services personnel who have direct contact with students as well as to those who are part of the technical personnel of the teaching staff even if they do not work in schools or educational institutions.

Article 2 specifies the types of conduct that can lead to dismissal from the job or position. The following are considered conduct incompatible with the teaching function: disclosing before it should be made known the content of tests, examinations or other materials or information prepared by the appropriate state organizations for the evaluation of students, including or contributing to the inclusion in records of notes, examinations, tests and other educational evaluation documents, inexact data or facts concerning action on said documents, changing what is shown in the latter or delivering or making any transaction with regard to the false document; acting with the clear intention of not following established standards for measuring objectives of the subject matter by making up tests or examinations and grading keys for the purpose of altering the results; and neglecting necessary vigilance and discipline in conducting said tests or examinations.

Other types of conduct that can lead to dismissal from a position or job are taking an attitude contrary to the performance of the duties of defending the country with arms, respecting the country's symbols and other duties established by the Constitution; carrying out activities disrespectful of the flag and national anthem and shield; publicly defaming or scorning the institutions of the republic and the country's political, social and mass organizations, heroes and martyrs. In addition, offering or showing to students books, publications, stamps, photographs or other objects that clearly are of an obscene or pornographic nature or of diversionist content; persuading students to take part in gambling or drinking alcoholic beverages as well as to committing actions contrary to socialist morality and ideological principles or our society.

Among the types of conduct incompatible with the teaching function which can lead to dismissal from position or job, Decree-law 34 includes the commission of any other act that might constitute an intentional defamatory crime and having an immoral, counter-revolutionary or any other nature which by its social content and significance can be harmful to the development of children and youths.

Decree-law 34 specifies in Article 3 that the action established for the aforementioned types of acts and conduct does not affect appropriate penal and material action that can be taken.

Article 8 states that representatives of the administration are held administratively and materially responsible for the arbitrary exercise of the powers granted them in Decree-law 34.

DORTICOS APPEALS FOR CRITICISM IN JUSTICE MINISTRY

FL181039 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 Mar 80 FL

[Text] In a plenary session held by the Justice Ministry in Havana to evaluate the year's accomplishments, Osvaldo Dorticos, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and minister of justice, has appealed for open criticism, independently of levels and hierarchy, as the only honest and revolutionary way to carry out the ministry's tasks. The vice president of the Council of Ministers and member of the Council of State referred to the grave problems of indiscipline and poor use of the workday, which affect the ministry and its branch offices.

Likewise, Dorticos referred to the current institutional situation in the Justice Ministry and the organization process which began when the state's central administration adopted a number of structural changes. These, he added to not yet permit us to make an exact determination of the agency's problems.

GRENADA

\$1 MILLION RELIEF GRANT FROM EEC FORTHCOMING

FL171050 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Mar 80 p 3 FL

[Text] Grenada is to receive a million dollar emergency grant from the European Economic Community (EEC) to help deal with severe damage caused by heavy rains late last year and earlier this year, the EEC office in Barbados announced yesterday.

The EC\$1.16 million grant comes under the emergency aid provisions of the Lome Convention, an aid and trade pact signed in 1975 between the EEC states and the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries.

Roads, bridges and agriculture were worst hit by torrential rains and landslides which battered Grenada over a 10-week period from late November 1979.

Official reports said the record rainfall had caused US\$4.7 million damage to agriculture and US\$7.7 million damage to roads.

The EEC grant to Grenada followed closely on an emergency allocation to Jamaica to deal with a similar situation there.

Jamaica's J\$1.5 million was provided for the repair of roads and bridges damaged during devastating flood rains last June, when 40 people died.

The EEC office also announced plans for other regional aid under the second Lome Convention, which was signed in the West African country of Lome last October.

Grants will include EC\$4.1 million for four studies on regional development, to be carried out by the Caribbean Development Bank.

Also EC\$1.9 million is to be provided for the creation of a training unit to prepare projects, and organisation of courses necessary for effective implementation.

Some EC\$350,000 is also to be provided for regional courses aimed at training customs administrators for countries of the Caribbean Community. (CANA)

MARTINIQUE

FRANCE SUSPECTS CUBAN ROLE IN LOCAL UNREST

FL131902 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Reports from Paris today said France suspects Cuba of partial responsibility for the wave of unrest most (?recently felt) in the West Indian island of Martinique. The French state secretary for overseas departments and territories admitted that he had no formal proof to back this charge and said the French had seen no sign of armed support. But, the French cabinet minister said that he was certain that the Martinique Communist Party and the Martinique Progressive Party had the same kind of relations with Cuba as the French Communist Party had with Moscow. The minister went on to warn that France could answer all possible [word indistinct] since it would only take 10 hours for the intervention unit based in metropolitan France to land in Martinique. The French Caribbean island has been swept by strikes and protest actions over the past few months accompanied by isolated incidents involving Martinicans and French nationals.

ST KITTS-NEVIS

GOVERNMENT VIEWS CUBAN-SOVIET CONNECTION AS THREAT

FL171415 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Mar 80 p 1 FL

[Staff reporter dispatch]

[Text] St Kitts-Nevis Government views the Cuban/Russian connection as a threat to the Caribbean region and as such the newly-elected associated state administration has no relationship with the leftist Bishop regime in Grenada.

This was made clear by Mr Michael Oliver Powell, minister of agriculture, lands, housing, labour and tourism in the St Kitts-Nevis Government, at a news conference at the Hilton Hotel in Port-of-Spain yesterday.

Mr Powell, a 41-year-old businessman, came to this country to seek a regular service from state-owned Trinidad and Tobago (TTIA) International Airways Corporation, linking his country with North America and the Caribbean.

He was optimistic that TTIA would accede to the request of his government sometime this year.

Asked what was the ideological stand of his government which came to power in the February 18 general elections, Mr Powell said:

"Our government is not left leaning and we make no apology for that. We see the infiltration of the Cuban influence in the region as a danger to peace.

No Relationship

"Our government believes in the ballot box. We came into power after 15 years as the opposition... We contested three elections before we won last month."

He elaborated that his government saw the Cuban influence as a threat because Havana propped up regimes with guns.

Emphasising that his government had no intention of becoming a puppet of anybody, the articulate Mr Powell, pointed out:

"It is our experience that anyone who gets caught in the Russian/Cuban connection is not free even though they may be independent.

"They are controlled either from Havana or Moscow."

In the context of his government's stand, Mr Powell was asked what was the extent of the relationship between his country and Grenada.

"None," was his bland reply.

Mr Powell added that St Kitts-Nevis was not officially represented in celebrations marking the first anniversary of the Bishop armed coup against elected Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy in Grenada on March 13, 1979.

He said the government received a congratulatory cable from the Bishop regime last month, and the St Kitts-Nevis Government did not respond to the cable.

Accompanying Mr Powell was Trinidad-born St Kitts hotelier Mr Fred Lam, a tireless worker for Caribbean economic integration.

Mr Powell said that his discussions with TTIA representatives were fruitful and he laid the "spade work" with government ministers here for the signing of a bilateral agreement between both countries.

Air Service Vital

He stressed that the TTIA service was vital to the economic development of his country, particularly with an eye on the tourist trade.

Although the country's main revenue earner was sugar, the new government wanted to make greater inroads into the tourist sector.

Minister Powell said the unemployment rate was approximately 25 per cent.

Mr Powell said he was highly touched by the reception he received from government ministers here.

He explained:

"I had no appointment to see them because I came ostensibly to see TTIA officials to put forward our case for a regular service.

"I was warmly greeted by all the ministers who went out of their way to meet me. This has deeply touched me because normally one has to make an appointment to see government ministers.

"The manner in which they treated me I think is an indication of their concern for regional integration."

Among the ministers he saw were Rep Errol Mahabir, Rep George Chambers, Senator John Donaldson, Senator Desmond Cartey and Senator Mervyn de Souza.

Minister Powell was also "bowled over" by the development projects at Point Lisas.

"One would expect to see such massive projects in larger countries and I was amazed with the Iscott project. That was something else," Mr Powell said.

The twin-island country with a population of 40,000 was not anxious to get political independence from Britain, Mr Powell said, until it had a sound economic base.

But he said that Britain was prepared to grant St Kitts-Nevis its independence without caring about its future.

In stressing that the country wanted to be economically strong before going it alone, Mr Powell explained:

"We don't want to fall victim to the lions in the political jungle... A weak country is vulnerable and we don't want the lions to pounce on us."

Mr Powell returns home this morning after four "useful and beneficial" days in Trinidad and Tobago.